

**Mapping out a plan**

Every certificate has one or more standards that refer to knowing students. How committed are you to knowing all there is to know about your students so that it can guide your instructional decisions in the classroom?

On Day One of this Summer Institute, we began the day with the development of your own personal vision for why you are pursuing National Board Certification. While this vision keeps you grounded as to why you are here, what this process will reveal to you over the next year is***what truly lies at the center of your core beliefs*.** The National Board deliberately starts with Teachers are Committed to Students and Their Learning as the first of the Five Core Propositions.

In this activity, you will begin where all National Board candidates must, with understanding how students will guide your description, analysis and reflection throughout this work. After all, everything you compose in your written commentary must be about these students in this setting at this time. First all aspects of students must be explored in both your practice and in what is part of your own core beliefs about teaching and learning.

We begin by exploring your core beliefs today; however, you don't yet know the students or the setting in which you will be teaching until they all arrive the first day of school. Even then these ideas are worth revisiting because ideas and beliefs change over time and under new circumstances. The following reflections will help you to examine these core beliefs. For the sake of this activity, bring your last group of students taught to mind.